



Maxim Achkasov
Chief Investment Officer
ma@fundtechfuture.com

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Saniona

The company

Saniona is a biopharmaceutical company that focuses on rare diseases because it sees considerable unmet need. In addition, development cycles of medicines for rare diseases may need less time and/or less financial investment than more common disorders*. Saniona's lead asset is **Tesomet**, which has been developed to treat two rare eating disorders: hypothalamic obesity (HO) and Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS). HO and PWS both have symptoms of morbid obesity and hyperphagia (an insatiable craving for food). Hyperphagia is a potentially life-threatening symptom and has so far lacked effective therapies. Currently, **Tesomet** has reached mid-stage clinical development/trial. On July 26, 2021, Saniona received U.S. FDA Orphan Drug Designation** for Tesomet in Hypothalamic Obesity. Tesomet is also on track to become an innovative treatment for Prader-Willi syndrome. In addition, Saniona owns a library of ion channel modifiers that will help to identify new candidates for other rare diseases.

(*) <https://saniona.com/about-us/our-strategy/>

(**) According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an orphan drug is defined as one "intended for the treatment, prevention or diagnosis of a rare disease or condition, which is one that affects less than 200,000 persons in the US" (which equates to approximately 6 cases per 10,000 population) "or meets cost recovery provisions of the act." Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_drug

The market

Obesity is one of the three top social burdens caused by our current lifestyle, according to [a major study published by McKinsey in 2014](#). The worldwide aggregated costs associated with being overweight and/or obese are USD \$2.0 trillion. The number of obese (Body Mass Index or BMI >30) or overweight (BMI >25) people has exceeded 2 billion. This is about 25.32% of the current total population of the planet. There are also significant social costs: 2.8 million out of a total 59 million deaths globally per year are tied to obesity. These economic and social burdens are expected to increase. 41% of the global population are projected to be overweight or obese by 2030. The US is experiencing one of the most dramatic increases in obesity. According to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, more than a third of the US adult population (or roughly 88 million) is now estimated to be obese, with another third being overweight. (Source: Nordea research).

Where our research differs from others

Our main conclusion is that the primary product, Tesomet, works and the Saniona Company will explore therapeutic uses of Tesomet to cover additional obesity-related issues.



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